



June 2004

Final Rule – Effective April 1, 2004

Drinking Water Operating Permits

Chapter 246-294 WAC

Water Systems Affected

All Group A public water systems.

Timelines and Requirements

April 1, 2004

- Date when all Group A Public Water Systems are subject to the revised rule.

Purpose of Rule Change

Chapter 246-294 WAC has been revised to incorporate revisions to Chapter 246-290 WAC, provides a clearer relationship between the operating permit categories and key drinking water regulations, and makes the rule clearer and easier to use.

Public Health Benefit

Water systems are required to deliver safe and reliable drinking water on a continuous basis. The operating permit rule provides the Office of Drinking Water with a structure to evaluate water system performance and present the findings in a meaningful way to consumers, system owners, system operators, and permitting authorities. These rule revisions result in increased protection by:

- Establishing a clear relationship between the operating permit categories and key public health regulations.
- Providing consumers better information about the condition of their water supply.
- Placing systems with high public health risk violations in the red permit category.

Rule Development Timeline

May 2003	Draft rule prepared
May 2003	Workshops for stakeholders
June 2003	Stakeholder comment period
January 2004	Public hearing
April 1, 2004	Rule effective date

For More information

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You can also visit our website at:
http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/Our_Main_Pages/regula.htm